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Review of Cowboy and Gunfighter Collectibles: A Photographic Encyclopedia with Price Guide and Makers Index

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Cowboy and Gunfighter Collectibles: A Photographic Encyclopedia with Price Guide and Makers Index. By Bill Mackin. Photographs by Nancy S. Bostain. Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press Publishing, 1989. Introduction, photographs. vi + 172 pp. \$26.95 cloth, \$19.95 paper.

The title of this estimable (but expensive) volume carries connotations of shootouts, banditti, and the vivid color of the never-never world of the "Old West." Perhaps some of that is here, but there is much more. In essence, it contains the portable memorabilia of the true West. There are Winchesters and Colts enough. These are predictable but perhaps other tools of the cowboy trade are not. The spurs, ropes, saddles, and even clothing are to be found here, including even the trappings of the occasional lady range rider. Much is omitted: no doubt the author had to make choices. Perhaps a later edition will remedy the defects. Surely the values published herein will change so that a follow-up will be demanded.

Obviously, this volume is aimed at the collector. As such, it is neither pretentious nor scholarly yet the scholar will find much that is useful, perhaps even essential to an understanding of the West both fact and fiction.

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